

What is claimed is:

1. A portable image transfer system comprising:

a digital still camera, at a remote station, which captures images in digital form and stores the images in a camera memory;

a cellular telephone transmitter;

a central processing unit (CPU) coupled to the camera memory and the cellular telephone transmitter, wherein the CPU controls the camera memory to cause it to output data representing an image and the CPU controls the cellular telephone transmitter to cause a cellular telephone to transmit the data output from the camera memory;

a receiving station coupled to the cellular telephone transmitter by a cellular network to receive image data;

means, at the receiving station, for image processing;

means for resetting the camera memory to be reused for subsequent images once an image is transmitted to the receiving station;

a return link for sending commands from the receiving station to the CPU, wherein the commands are directions for obtaining further images as needed by the means for image processing; and

an image storage device coupled to the receiving station to store images received by the receiving station.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the CPU interfaces to a camera memory of an existing digital still camera.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cellular telephone transmitter comprises:

a standard cellular telephone; and
a cellular modem.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for
5 packaging images as electronic mail messages prior to
transmission by the cellular telephone transmitter.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for
handling a serial line interface protocol connection between
the cellular telephone transmitter and the receiving station.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for
10 encrypting image data prior to transmission by the cellular
telephone transmitter.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a means
15 for causing the digital still camera to capture images on a
periodic basis, wherein the CPU is programmed to periodically
transmit an image to free the camera memory for
accepting subsequent images.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising means for
20 determining a location of the portable image transfer system
and means for including a location indication with each
image.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the commands
25 represent user directions to be displayed at the remote
station directing the user to capture additional images as
needed by the means for image processing.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the commands are
directions directed at the remote station directing the digital
still camera or CPU to capture additional image data as
30 needed by the means for image processing.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a remote
printing device for printing images processed by the receiving
station.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the remote printing
35 device is one of a facsimile machine, a digital copier or
a printer.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising means,
within the receiving station, for using the location indication
40 as a variable when processing said each image.

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17. A portable image transfer system comprising:

a digital still camera, at a remote station, which captures one or more images in digital form and stores the images in a camera memory;

a cellular telephone transmitter for communication with a receiving station; and

a central processing unit (CPU) coupled to the camera memory and the cellular telephone transmitter, the CPU being configured to control the camera memory to produce output data representing the images formatted as one or more electronic mail messages, the CPU further being configured to control the cellular telephone transmitter to transmit the output data from the camera memory to the receiving station, the CPU further being configured to reset the camera memory if the camera memory needs additional capacity for storing further images.

18. The portable image transfer system of claim 17 wherein the one or more electronic mail messages is provided in MIME format.

19. The portable image transfer system of claim 17 further including means for connecting to the receiving station using a predetermined communication protocol.

20. The portable image transfer system of claim 17 wherein the CPU is further configured to connect to an external printing device via the cellular telephone transmitter.

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21. A portable image transfer system comprising:

a digital still camera, at a remote station, which captures one or more images in digital form and stores the images in a camera memory;

a cellular telephone transmitter for communication with a receiving station;

circuitry to produce information relating to the location of the portable image transfer system; and

a central processing unit (CPU) coupled to the camera memory, to the circuitry, and to the cellular telephone transmitter, the CPU being configured to control the camera memory to produce output data representing a combination of the images and the location information, the CPU further being configured to control the cellular telephone transmitter to transmit the output data from the camera memory to the receiving station, the CPU further being configured to reset the camera memory if the camera memory needs additional capacity for storing further images.

22. The portable image transfer system of claim 21 wherein the output data represent the images and the location information in an electronic mail message.

23. The portable image transfer system of claim 21 further including means for connecting to the receiving station using a predetermined communication protocol.

24. The portable image transfer system of claim 21 wherein the CPU is further configured to connect to an external printing device via the cellular telephone transmitter.